

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-45 and 47-64 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claim 64 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 30, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (USP 5,724,579) in view of Bloomfield et al. (USP 5,555,100) and further in view of Kawamura (USP 6,522,354); rejected claims 2 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Bloomfield and Kawamura and further in view of Nanba (USP 6,297,870); and rejected the remainder of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) using a variety of combinations of references. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating claim 64 includes allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 30 to include the allowable features of claim 64. Applicant has further amended claim 1, which is the corresponding apparatus claim of method claim 30, to include the allowable elements of claim 64. Based on these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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